

63. (new) A method of producing a variant hepatocyte growth factor (HGF) the method comprising culturing a cell as defined in Claim 61 and isolating the variant HGF therefrom.--

REMARKS

Reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1-30 have been canceled, without prejudice. Claims 31-63 have been added and are based on the originally published claims. No new matter has been added.

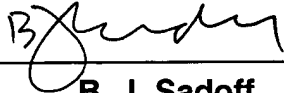
The applicants elect, with traverse, the subject matter of the Examiner's Group I, for further prosecution in the above. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement is requested as the restriction requirement is not properly supported by the Examiner's conclusory statements contained in the Office Action of September 13, 2001 (Paper No. 12). The applicants submit, for example, that the Examiner has failed to support her conclusion that the claims of the separate Groups would require "non-coextensive searches of the art", such as by indicating where the subject matter of the separate Groups is defined separately by the classification index of the Patent Office. The Examiner's unsupported assertions are not sufficient basis for requiring restriction and withdrawal of the same is requested.

An early and favorable Action on the merits of all of the claimed subject matter is requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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